

June 2, 2006

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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon announced that Plaquemines Parish would receive \$11,427,920 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parish for disaster relief costs.

"I am pleased the federal government is offering Plaquemines Parish a helping hand in our rebuilding efforts, but more work still needs to be done," said Melancon. "I will continue to fight for the coastal restoration funds and Category 5 levees we need to make sure a catastrophe of this magnitude never happens again."

The following grants were announced today for Plaquemines Parish:

- \$4,926,337 for Debris Removal. Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage in Plaquemines Parish. Storm surge and excessive rainfall breached the levee system. The resulting flooding destroyed and severely damaged structures throughout the parish. These Public Assistance funds will reimburse the parish for the demolition of approximately 599 structures on private property which posed a threat to public health or safety. It also includes the costs to transport and dispose of the estimated 263,500 cubic yards of debris generated from demolitions. Funds are for work completed between February 2, 2006, and June 30, 2006.

- \$3,742,776 to Replace Individual Water Distribution Systems. A 15 foot to 20 foot storm surge from Hurricane Katrina overtopped levees and inundated Plaquemines Parish, causing major damage throughout the region. Individual water meters in the parish were irreparably damaged by the salt water from the surge which remained in the region for three weeks. These Public Assistance funds are for the replacement of approximately 10,000 individual water distribution systems in Belle Chasse, Port Sulphur, Dalcour/East Bank, Pointe a la Hache and Buras/Boothville.

- \$2,758,807 to Plaquemines Parish School Board. Storm surge, high winds and heavy rain from Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to six of the nine public schools in Plaquemines Parish. This damage created a need for temporary classrooms to serve both the Plaquemines Parish student population as well as to accommodate displaced students from other parishes. These Public Assistance funds will reimburse the school board for the construction of modular classrooms at Port Sulphur High School for approximately 840

students as well as the costs associated with preparing the site for the temporary buildings.

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